

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-6. (Canceled)

7. (New) A method in a computer system for providing an interface between at least one logical view of a relational database and a plurality of normalized relational database tables having stored data, comprising:

receiving an indication of an operation to be performed on the at least one logical view;

automatically determining a corresponding plurality of normalized relational database tables that were used to construct the at least one logical view; and

transparently and automatically causing the stored data in the corresponding plurality of normalized relational database tables to be adjusted in accordance with the indicated operation, thereby automatically performing the indicated operation on underlying data that corresponds to the logical view.

8. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the automatically determining the corresponding plurality of normalized relational database tables comprises:

retrieving from a definitions file a plurality of stored tables and attributes that correspond to a join operation used to construct the at least one logical view.

9. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the transparently and automatically causing the stored data in the corresponding plurality of normalized relational database tables to be adjusted in accordance with the indicated operation, further comprises:

retrieving, from a definitions file associated with the at least one logical view, computer instructions for performing a database insert operation on at least one of the corresponding plurality of normalized relational database tables in accordance with the indicated operation; and

automatically performing the computer instructions to adjust the underlying data in accordance with the indicated operation.

10. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the indicated operation is at least one of a create object or a delete object operation.

11. (New) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
receiving an indication of an event from one of the normalized relational database tables;

determining at least one corresponding logical view that was constructed using the one of the normalized tables; and

automatically notifying the determined logical view of the indicated event.

12. (New) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
receiving an indication of an expression that includes at least one of a mathematical expression, a function, an attribute reference, or a conditional operation; and
performing the expression to generate at least one of a retrieved data from the database, a value, or a virtual attribute in the at least one logical view.

13. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the transparently and automatically causing the stored data in the corresponding plurality of normalized relational database tables to be adjusted in accordance with the indicated operation, further comprises:

using a join cache to persistently maintain linkages between the stored tables and attributes and the at least one logical view.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

determining whether the data in columns represented by the join cache has changed; and

when it is determined that the data in the columns represented by the join cached has change, recalculating the join thereby updating the at least one logical view.

15. (New) A computer readable memory medium containing content that enables a software application in a computing device to manipulate relational database data through logical views, by performing:

receiving an indication of an operation to be performed on the at least one logical view;

automatically determining a corresponding plurality of normalized relational database tables that were used to construct the at least one logical view; and

transparently and automatically causing the stored data in the corresponding plurality of normalized relational database tables to be adjusted in accordance with the indicated operation, thereby automatically performing the indicated operation on underlying data that corresponds to the logical view.

16. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the computer-readable medium is at least one of a memory of the computing device or a data transmission medium transmitting to the computing device a generated data signal containing the contents.

17. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the contents are instructions that, when executed, cause the computing device to perform the method.

18. (New) A software tool for enabling a software application in a computing device to manipulate relational database data through logical views of a relational database, comprising:

a definitions file having a plurality of sections that define a correspondence between stored data in a plurality of stored normalized relational database tables and one or more logical view tables; and

a database join engine configured to automatically interface between at least one logical view table and a corresponding plurality of stored normalized tables of the relational database such that, when an operation is performed on the at least one logical view table, underlying stored data is automatically manipulated in the corresponding plurality of stored normalized database tables.

19. (New) The software tool of claim 18, wherein the definitions file further comprises a join cache definition that indicates a cache to maintain persistent linkages between attributes in the stored normalized tables and the at least one logical view.

20. (New) The software tool of claim 18 wherein the operation is at least one of a create object or a delete object operation.

21. (New) A computer-implemented method for generating an object of any class according to an abstract object model for use as a reusable software component, comprising:

instantiating code for the object that corresponds to a plurality of uniform functions;

instantiating code for the object that corresponds to at least one abstraction conversion tool; and

instantiating code for the object that implements a plurality of object behaviors including notification of a change to an attribute of the object, notification of an addition of an attribute to the object, and notification of a removal of an attribute of the object.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the instantiating code that corresponds to the plurality of uniform functions comprises:

instantiating code for the object that implements functions to read an attribute of the object, write an attribute of the object, get attribute names of the object, invoke a behavior on the object, and get related objects.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

instantiating code for the object that implements a plurality of object behaviors including notification of adding an object to a set of objects and notification of deleting an object from a set of objects.

24. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the instantiating code for the object that corresponds to at least one abstraction conversion tool further comprises:

instantiating code for the object that corresponds to an abstraction conversion tool that implements operations that correspond to at least one of object masquerading, object selection, object projection, object concatenation, object joins, property calculations, object bridging, object monitors, or system wrappers.

25. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the generated object is a join engine that implements logical views of normalized tables in a relational database.

26. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the generated object is used to create a powerflow application.